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Montana Historical Society

Examples of Museum and Library/Archives Donations from all 56 Montana Counties

Beaverhead County

■ Museum - Painting of the Boston and Montana Mine, near Bannack, by Peter Tofft, 1866. Donated by William A. Clark in 1919.

Research Center

- o Beaverhead County Brand Book issued by the Stock Growers and Farmers Association of Beaverhead County, 1903.
- o 2900 photographs and negatives. Views of Dillon, Bannack, mining, agriculture, Montana Normal College, Orr Studio subjects.

Big Horn County:

- Museum 35-star, swallowtail cavalry guidon which was reportedly used at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Donated by William E. Grace in 1955.
- Research Center A slide program with audio tape "A Dam is Born" (187 slides from 1963-1968) views of the countryside, construction and dedication of the Yellowtail Dam on the Big Horn River with narration by Jack Selway, and 113 slides of the Pryor Mountains, ca. 1960-1990. Donated by Clara and Denes Istvanffy, 2001.

Blaine County

- Museum Collection of Native American artifacts assembled by "Aunt Julia" Schulz a member of the Gros Ventre tribe who taught school and performed social work on the Fort Belknap Reservation for many years (35 items), 1880–1940. Bequeathed by Julia Schulz in 1973.
- Research Center USGS topographic map of the Wayne Creek Quadrangle surveyed in 1903. Donated by the Montana State Library.

Broadwater County

- Museum Playhouse furniture—including a child-sized sideboard, doll bed, and piano—made by Magdalen Johnson for her daughters on their Broadwater-County ranch, ca. 1918.
 Donated by Helen Johnson Kleffner, 1993.
- Research Center A. B. Cook Papers (1882 –1940) including general correspondence, primarily concerning the A.B. Cook Stock Farms in Broadwater County. Donated by the Frank Hervey Cook Estate as a memorial to A.B. Cook, 1971. Includes 2300 photographs.

Carbon County

- Museum 54 masterworks by Charles M. Russell, donated to the Society by the Malcolm M. Mackay family of Roscoe, 1952–1955.
- Research Center Dillworth Cattle Company Records (1886 1907) of Carbon County consist of outgoing correspondence. Donated by Harry B. Dilworth, 1989.

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Research Center

- The Cream of the American Continent is the Irrigated West, Glass Brothers Land Company, 1909. Donated by John C. Boe, 1987.
- One album of 108 photographs of dude ranches on the Boulder River, 1920's to 1940's, donated by the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1984.

Teton County

- Museum Machines and equipment from the Choteau Cleaners and Tailors (approx. 20 items), 1940s-1950s. Donated by Abby Kerr in 1986.
- Research Center Thomas O. Larson Papers (1909 1950) Thomas Larson operated a sheep ranch near Choteau, Montana, and served in the Montana legislature. Collection includes correspondence, financial records, legal documents, speeches, and subject files. Donated by Helen Guthrie Miller, 1986. Includes 741 photographs.

Toole County

- Museum Ticket and program from the Dempsey-Gibbons fight in Shelby, 1923. Donated by John T. Pewters in 1972.
- Research Center
 - O Michael Connelly & Bridget Connelly Papers (1853 1944) Toole County, Montana pioneer homesteaders and ranchers. Collection consists of a family history-reminiscence (1952) detailing their arrival in Montana and their life and experiences early Montana communities.
 - o 345 photographs and negatives, images used in production of the *Shelby Promoter*, 1960-1971. Donated by Jack Gilluly in 1978.

Treasure County

- Museum "LBJ" earrings and pin (1964) and movie posters from Dave Manning's Yucca Theater in Hysham (1950s). Donated by Shirley Manning Mouat in 1992.
- Research Center Tales of Treasure County: Historical Essays by Residents of Treasure County, Montana, edited by Ruth Carrington, 1976. Purchased from the Editor, 1977.

Valley County

- Museum 56 Native American artifacts collected by noted cowboy poet Walt Coburn, ca. 1900–1930. Donated by his daughter in 1962.
- Research Center Local Community History of Valley County, Montana, By Montana Federation Women's Clubs with Illustrations by H. Irvin Shope, 1925. Purchased from the Women's Club for \$1.

Wheatland County

- Museum Membership card for the "Patriotic Association of Wheatland County," and other related ephemera, 1918. Donated by the Greenfield family in 1986.
- Research Center
 - George's Map of Wheatland County, George Engineering Company, 1917. No Donor information available.
 - Typescript of a diary kept by Bud and Esther Davis while homesteading east of Judith Gap. Donated by their son, Phil Davis, 1993.

Wibaux County

- Museum Toys used by Regina and Mary Paulson in Wibaux, ca. 1900. Donated by Regina's daughters in 2004.
- Research Center
 - o The Beaver, Wibaux County High School Annual, 1936. Donated by Lon Johnson, 1998.
 - One 16mm motion film about Stock Passes (highway underpasses for livestock), photographed by Marvin Kalland for the Montana Highway Dept. Includes Trygvee Ree and Stanley Dobroski ranches in Wibaux and Glendive, taken in September 1964.

Yellowstone County

- Museum Saddle, bridle, silver, china, kitchenware, oriental rugs, clothing, embroidery, and books (80 items) from the Giddings family of Billings, 1900–1945. Donated by Dr. Alice Giddings King in 1986 and 1987.
- Research Center Yellowstone County, Montana, in the World War, 1917-1918-1919, War Book Publishing Company, 1919. Donated by the Parmly Billings Library, 1943.

Deer Lodge County

- Museum Jim Bridger's binoculars in deerskin case, ca. 1841. Donated by Frank Lacox of Anaconda in 1968.
- Research Center 3500 glass and film negatives and 84 photographs of the Anaconda Reduction Works, the smelter operations, Anaconda, MT. Donated by the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. in 1982.

Fallon County

- Museum Dolls, toys, and other childhood items (approx. 200) used by the donors while growing up in Ollie, 1920s. Donated by Rhoda Hoverson Pollock and Kristine Hoverson Finch in multiple donations 1996–2004.
- Research Center Lovingly, Carrie, by Beatrice M. Anderson, 1983. Rewritten version of oral reminiscences of Carrie Brakefield's homesteading experiences near Willard, Montana, during the 1910's. Donated by the author, 1983.

Fergus County

- Museum Painting of the William Fergus Ranch by Genevieve "Gene" Galloway, undated. Donated by Jean Howard in 1968.
- Research Center -- Daniel Webster and Lizzie Ellis Slayton Papers (1883 1934) D.W. Slayton (1862-1927) was a Lavina, Montana, sheep rancher; owner of Slayton Mercantile Company; investor in the Lavina State Bank and the Citizens State Bank of Roundup; member of the Fergus County Board of Commissioners; state legislator; and unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1920. Papers consist of diaries (1884-1889, 1907-1917, 1928-1934) kept by Slayton, his wife Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ellis Slayton, and their son Daniel E. Slayton; and correspondence (1883-1924) among the three. Donated by Lydia Slayton Hogan, 1971; Harriet Slayton Dusenberry, Ruth Stucky, and Norma Daumann, 1988; Mary Martinson, 1989.

Flathead County

- Museum Collection of firearms, weapons and related items of western Americana (500+ pieces) collected by Samuel E. Johns, 1880s through 1930s. Donated by S. Douglas Johns in 1959.
- Research Center Perry S. Melton Papers (1935 1987) Perry Melton was a long time Kalispell labor union leader. Collection contains information on; the Central Trades and Labor Council of Kalispell and Flathead County; the Painters Union #975; the Flathead Metal Trades Council; the Northwest Montana Building and Construction Trades Council; the Hotel, Restaurant and Bar Tenders International Union Locals 312 and 603; the Montana State Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); the Treasure State Labor Journal. Donated by Pearl Melton Hagel, Perry S. Melton, Jr., and Emily Jane Melton, 1992. Includes 498 photographic images.

Gallatin County

• Museum - Materials collected by and related to F. Jay Haynes and family, including cameras, furniture, art, Native American artifacts, 1860s–1960s. Donated by Isabel Haynes in multiple donations 1970s–1980s.

Research Center – Powder River Land and Cattle Company Records (1911 – 1944) this company operated ranches in Carter and Custer counties. Records include correspondence, financial records including cattle sales records, payroll, articles of incorporation, bylaws, and minutes. Donated by Helena Urban Renewal, 1972.

Cascade County

- Museum Quilts, dishes and other household furnishings, clothes and personal gear, art, etc. (330 items) from the Churchill Family who lived on their cascade ranch for more than 100 years. Donated by the Estate of Bill Kitterman in 1999.
- Research Center Plat of Cascade County Poor Farm, Cascade County Surveyors Office, March 13, 1909.

Chouteau County

- Museum Original weathervane from Fort Benton, 1860s. Purchased with money raised jointly by MHS and the Museum of the Upper Missouri in Fort Benton in 1995.
- Research Center Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. Records (1834 1864) including a letter from Pierre Menard (1810) from the region around Three Forks; Forts Benton, Sarpy, and Union journals. Donated by Granville Stuart, 1894; Paris Gibson, 1905; and Hiram Chittendon, 1902.

Custer County

- Museum Saddle made by the Miles City Saddlery Company and presented to the donor by her husband when she won the Lady Bronc Riding World Championship in 1914. Donated by Fanny Sperry Steele in 1970.
- Research Center
 - o 1300 images (original glass and film negatives) by Miles City photographer L. H. Huffman, 1879–1926. Donated by Huffman's heirs in 1981.
 - o In the Heart of the Yellowstone: Information for Homeseekers, published by the Miles City Chamber of Commerce, 1907. Donated, 1907.

Daniels County

- Museum Photograph-developing supplies, ca. 1900. Donated by Ginger Fosland.
- Research Center
 - o 1 album of 84 photoprints, people picnicking, hunting, and carrying fishing creels. Donated by Virginia B. (Ginger) Foslund in 1995.
 - Alice N. Susag Diaries (1917 1984) consisting of the diaries of Alice N. Susag, wife of Oswald E. Susag, homesteader, and resident of Scobey, Montana. Donated by Ralph W. Susag, 1999.

Dawson County

- Museum Northern Pacific Railroad pocket watch used by J. Max Voohries of Glendive, ca.
 1903. Donated by his daughter in 1971.
- Research Center Eastern Montana Military Veterans Records (1918 1945) consisting of military discharge papers for veterans from Dawson County and the surrounding area from World War I and World War II. Donated by Jerree Scheitlin, 1986.

Powder River County

- Museum Silver in-laid spurs used by the donor on her family's ranch near Biddle, ca. 1920. Donated by Mary Lou Skinner Ross in 1994.
- Research Center 615 photoprints and 54 negatives, views of R.H. Heaton family and friends on farms near Biddle, MT, and Dickinson, ND; Mary Lou Heaton at school at U of Wyoming, with friends near Miles City, and as a school teacher in SE MT, 1910's -1950's. Donated by Mary Lou (Heaton) Skinner Ross 1985-1992.

Powell County

- Museum Passenger waiting bench from the Garrison depot, ca. 1907. Donated by David P. Meier in 1982.
- Research Center
 - O Powell County 1910 Census Index including Montana State Prison. Powell County Genealogical Society.
 - Il linear feet of prisoner photographs from Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, 1870-1960.

Prairie County

- Museum Evelyn Cameron collection including photographic equipment, clothes, and household items, 1895–1920. Donated by the Estate of Janet Williams in 1991.
- Research Center
 - Evelyn Cameron collection including 3,000 photo prints, 2,000 glass and film negatives, diaries, and books, 1895–1920. Donated by the Estate of Janet Williams in 1991.
 - O Book entitled, Terry Does Exist: a History of South Eastern Montana by B. Stith, 1963. Donated by the author, 1963.

Ravalli County

- Museum Wall bracket, chair, sculpture, and cross made by Fr. Ravalli, ca. 1860. Donated by St. Ignatius Mission, 1904.
- Research Center Thomas H. Irvine Papers (1879 1926) sheriff of Custer and Ravalli counties and U.S. deputy marshal. Papers include correspondence, personal diaries, lists of wanted criminals, court papers, and account books. There are also several reminiscences on Irvine's journey across the plains (1864). Donated by K.C. Irvine, 1954; Harl W. Irvine, 1971-1976.

Richland County

- Museum Trade token from the Albert Pharmacy in Fairview, early 20th century. Donated by Lance K. Johnson in 1990.
- Research Center 52 photographs of the Josephson and Anderson families, views of homesteads, farming activities, irrigation and coal mining in Richland County, 1895-1995. Donated by Camilla Anderson, 1991.

Roosevelt County

• Museum - Homemade quilt given to Gertrude Steffes as a wedding present, 1918. Donated by her daughter in 1985.

Research Center

- Culbertson Diamond Jubilee, 1887-1962: Seventy-five Years of Progress. The Jubilee Committee, 1962. Donated by the author, 1963.
- Supt. Lohmiller's photographs (88 images) of Poplar and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation including Indians and surrounding area, pre-1911. Donated by Matthew O. Lohmiller in 1978.

Rosebud County

- Museum -1939 automobile license plate. Donated by Hiram Bristow in 1946.
- Research Center 257 photographs and 23 albums of negatives. Views of Forsyth area activities including Colstrip mining, farming, oil wells, dam construction, and railroading. Photos taken by Walter B. Dean. Donated by Mrs. Walter B. Dean in 1976.

Sanders County

- Museum Ribbon celebrating "The Organization of Sanders County," 1906. Donated by W. R. McIver, III in 1982.
- Research Center 50 glass negatives, views of dam construction at Thompson Falls, 1913-1917.

Sheridan County -

- Museum Scrapbook documenting the donor's 12 years in school, 1929—1941. Donated by Mary Woods Marshall in 1995.
- Research Center 3 linear feet of b&w photographs removed from 4 volumes of scrapbooks documenting the East Coalridge Community, 1909-1065. Donated by Henry B. Syverud in 1977.

Silver Bow County

- Museum More than 200 paintings by Elizabeth Lochrie of Butte, 1930s 1970s. Donated by Elizabeth Lochrie, 1979.
- * Research Center Map of Mining Claims of Butte City and Vicinity, Montana, Baker and Harper, 1889. Donated by Spokane Public Library, 1998.

Stillwater County

- Museum Christmas card from the Lone Tree School, 1921. Donated by Everetta Renzema McQuestion in 1989.
- Research Center
 - They gazed on Beartooths (3 vols.) by Jim Annin, 1964. An extensive local history for Stillwater County.
 - o "Progress pictures Benbow & Mouat properties, 1942-43". 70 photographs of the Anaconda Co. chrome mine & mill, Stillwater Complex, MT

Sweet Grass County

• Museum - Gavel made by the donor from 4 souvenir woods collected in the Philippines while serving in Co. I, 1st Montana Volunteers, aboard the ship and on base, 1898–1899. Donated by Big Timber Senator W. J. Hannah, 1899.

■ Research Center – 1917 homestead locations Hill County ownership map; also includes school locations, Susie's Copy Shop, 1993. Purchased, 1997.

Jefferson County

- Museum Prehistoric bowl (ca. 1600) carved from soapstone that probably originated from a Jefferson County quarry. Donated by A. W. LeRoy in 1928.
- Research Center Interstate 90 Route Location Study, Butte to Whitehall: A Report to the Montana Highway Commission, by Meissner Engineers, Inc., 1960. Transferred from the Archives, RS 139, 1987.

Judith Basin County

- Museum Chair made from horns taken from buffalo that were hunted in Judith Basin County; the buffalo were shot by and the chair was made by the donor, ca. 1882. Donated by David Hilger in 1928.
- Research Center Homesteaders in the Judith Basin, by Henry G. Ronish, 1974. Personal reminiscences and observations of the author. Donated by the author, 1974.

Lake County

• Museum - Freight wagon used by "Holding & Son / Polson, Montana," ca. 1885. Donated by the Hughes Family in 1984.

Research Center

- O Buffalo Ferry Bridge Association Records (1920) a Polson, Montana, private ferry company that operated on the Flathead River. This collection consists of a statement of revenue and loads. Donated by G.A. Norris, 1961.
- o 3 albums, views of the Ed Craney family & their friends, logging operations, including those of Stolze lumber Co., scenery and activities on Swan Lake, MT, 1914-1919. Donated by Ed Craney in 1980.

Lewis and Clark County

• Museum - Collection of 274 dental tools, many of which were used by Dr. O. A. Kenck of Augusta in his traveling dental wagon, ca. 1900. Donated by Dr. T. C. Betzner in 1969.

Research Center

- o Samuel Hauser's Bible including family tree received with family papers.
- Samuel Hauser Papers (1864 1914) Samuel T. Hauser (1833-1914) was a Helena, Montana Territory, pioneer, territorial governor (1885-1886), and entrepreneur. Collection consists of correspondence, financial records, legal documents, organizational records, and reports. Included are records of the Hauser family and Hauser's business enterprises. Donated by Samuel T. Hauser, Jr., 1937; Rex McCulley, 1964; and Mrs. M.L. Simmons, 1968.

Liberty County

- Museum Woman's travel toiletry set used by Mrs. Herbert Rolph, who's husband was a long-time state representative and two-term speaker of the house, ca. 1900. Donated by the Rolphs' granddaughter in 2003.
- Research Center Situation Statement for Liberty County, USDA. Received through the Federal Depository System, 1973. Also available for 27 other counties.

Research Center

- 24,00 images (original glass and film negatives) taken by photographers F. Jay and Jack Haynes, official photographers of both the Northern Pacific Railroad and Yellowstone National Park. Donated by Isabel Haynes in multiple donations 1970s–1980s.
- o Early History of Gallatin County, Montana by E. Lina Houston, 1933. Purchased from the author for \$1 in 1933.

Garfield County

- Museum Spontoon-type tomahawk axe head made of forged iron found by a homesteader northeast of Mosby near the Musselshell River, ca. 1875. Donated by Dr. Robert H. Dion in 1982.
- Research Center It is Good to Remember, compiled by Elsie Forbes Childs, 1976. "Dedicated to the people who homesteaded or ranched in the area around the Milroy School on the North Fork of Taylor Creek..."

Glacier County

- Museum Bob Scriver collection of bronzes, plasters, and western Americana (4000+pieces), 1950–1999. Donated by Lorraine Scriver in 2000.
- Research Center
 - In addition to the artifacts acquired by the museum, the Research Center received Scriver's library and personal papers.
 - 84 b&w photoprints, photographs by Ella Mad Plume Yellow Wolf, of Louie & Ella Yellow Wolf, Blackfeet Indians, their friends, relatives & activities in the Browning, Montana, area, circa 1940's. Donated by Theresa Wall, 1997.

Golden Valley County

- Museum Paintings by Max Woolley of homestead scenes, and artifacts used by members
 of the Woolley family on their homestead, 1910–1980s. Donated by Max Woolley in 2003.
- Research Center Fish Creek Irrigation District (Project 21), Golden Valley and Wheatland Counties, Montana: Engineering Report and Recommendations, by the Public Service Commission of Montana, 1922.

Granite County

- Museum Miniature mining tools and monogrammed silver ingot, made from silver mined at the Granite Bimetallic Mine, ca. 1890. Donated by Ted Atwater in 1998.
- Research Center Philipsburg Mining Company Records (1911 1944) of Philipsburg, Montana, consist of interoffice correspondence between the Philipsburg office, the St. Louis office and the sales office in Cincinnati; general correspondence; financial records, consisting primarily of vouchers; production records, including assay reports and manganese ore shipment records; accident reports; and miscellany. Donated by William Antonioli Family, 1998.

Hill County

 Museum - Wedding dress worn by Effie Jacoby when she married Howard Bartlett in Box Elder, 1902. Donated by June Jacoby Burdg in 1986.

Lincoln County

- Museum Bankbook from the Kootenai Valley State Bank, used by the donor while working in Troy and Libby, 1937–1938. Donated by Leo Fenolken in 1987.
- Research Center
 - o Libby Dam Project Payroll Appreciation Plan, 1968. Donated by Tony Kastella, 2004.
 - Libby Lumber Co. / Libby Yards Co / Monarch Lumber Co/ Building Service, Inc. Records (1914 – 1961) Records of businesses conducting state-wide retail lumber and real estate trade, include general correspondence, court papers, financial records, legal documents, minutes, organizational materials, reports, and miscellany. Donated by Idaho Historical Society, 1986.

Madison County

- Museum Rifle used by Dan and Don Nichols in kidnapping Kari Swenson and records relating to the subsequent trial, 1985. Donated by the Madison County Clerk of District Court, 2000.
- Research Center Montana Post, August 27, 1864 (the first newspaper published in Montana).

McCone County

- Museum Branding irons (–FK), Stetson hat, and cowboy boots, early 1900s. Donated by the McCone County Museum in 1981.
- Research Center Pearl Sparks Unglesbee Danniel Papers (1885 1975) Papers of a homesteader in the Rock Creek area of McCone County, Montana, and a prolific writer. Collection consists of her writings on a wide variety of topics including homesteading, Fort Peck Dam, the need for rural roads, political waste, and her anti-war sentiments. Donated by Alan K. Amundson, 1979.

Meagher County

- Museum "Two Dot" Wilson's two-dot branding iron, ca. 1885. Donated by the Montana Stockgrowers Association in 1967.
- Research Center
 - Calendar of the Sixth District Court of the State of Montana, County of Meagher, 1891, 1892, 1894. Donated by the Montana Law Library.
 - o 450 photographs, approx. Emmanuel Taylor Gordon, his family and friends, and White Sulphur Springs and surrounding area.

Mineral County

- Museum First post office box in Montana, 1868. Donated by Frances Whaley McConkey of Alberton in 1965.
- Research Center 762 photos in one album, taken by H. English, A.J. Elton, Edward Boos, and M. J. Elrod, views of CM & St. Paul Railroad construction in and near Taft, MT. Donated by Raphael Cristy in 1987.

Missoula County

- Museum "Newhouse" grizzly bear trap, 4 feet long, ca. 1912. Donated by Charles Goff in 1988.
- Research Center William Frederick Seltz Papers (1920 1949). This collection consists of business and personal papers of William Seltz, a Missoula County, Montana, farmer and apple grower. Acquired from Stuart McKenzie, 1993.

Musselshell County

- Museum Patient examination chair from the office of Dr. Lewis in Roundup, ca. 1920.
 Donated by Dr. Belle Richards.
- Research Center Croatian Fraternal Union of America Records (1908 1963) Records consist of materials from 5 local unions in the Roundup, Montana, area. Records are primarily dues books and membership records. Donated by Dale Alger, 2004.

Park County

- Museum Long-term loan of Anzick Cache prehistoric artifacts (55 pieces), approximately 10,000 years old. Lent by Calvin Sarver and Faye Case, 1988.
- Research Center
 - A Complete List of Taxpayers for the County of Park, State of Montana, for the Year 1894, G. Wright, 1894. No Donor information available.
 - o 35,000 photographic images of railroad locomotives donated by Warren McGee in 1997.

Petroleum County

- Museum Prospectus from the Metropolitan Petroleum Company of Montana re: the Cat Creek oil field, ca. 1925. Donated in 1988.
- Research Center
 - o The Creation of Petroleum County, by J. M. Hassing, 1966. Donated by the author, 1968.
 - o 90 photographic prints of Cat Creek Oil operation taken in 1920 by Herb Titter.

Phillips County

- Museum + George W. Christofferson's membership ribbon for "Miner's Union No. 190 / Zortman, Montana," ca. 1905. Donated by Ethel Christofferson Lyons in 1984.
- Research Center 53 photographs in an album, images of John Manning family, Landusky Post Office, Little Rockies Mill, Nora Varney, Alabama Mine, St. Paul's Mission, People's Creek Canyon, Mission Butte, Gold Bug Hill, Kid Curry. 1880's -1890's, acquired in 1992.

Pondera County

- Museum Siouan-style feather bonnet with golden eagle tail feathers and beadwork, ca. 1900. Donated by Einar T. Pettersen in 1986.
- Research Center Brady Mercantile Co. Records (1910 1950) owned by T.N. Quamme and his son Gilmore Quamme, was located in Brady, Montana. This collection (1910-1950) contains correspondence, financial records, and inventories of the company. Donated by the Cascade County Historical Society, 1987; Ed Gallagher, 1984.